

**It's Still
FREE**

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Helping Bonaire Grow Responsibly

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Marco Di Gianvito photo

Tony Trinidad Rides at Dia di Arte

It's not certain when Bonaire will actually receive the second hand water tank trucks from the Netherlands to haul wastewater away from waterfront hotels and businesses, said the *Radio Nederland* website. There is an urgent need to remove wastewater from the shore area to protect the coral reef. Removal of the sewage is part of an action plan to protect the reef until the central sewer system is completed in 2014.

According to a report, Jozef van Brussel, Quartermaster of the Netherlands Ministry of Public Housing, Environmental Planning, and Conservation of Nature (VROM) on Bonaire, **there is a plan for the purchase of a two or three tank trucks, not 10 trucks as originally anticipated.**

However, the plan still requires details and the approval of the Bonaire Executive Council. Additionally the price hasn't been agreed upon since the tankers will be transferred from the Ministry of Defense and have to be shipped to Bonaire. It still has to be confirmed whether the tankers are technically suitable, who is going to drive the tank trucks, as well as where they will be garaged and maintained. The "portable" wastewater treatment plant, to be located at LVV, will be offered for bid next month and hopefully be installed on Bonaire by the end of this year.

A local environmentalist told *The Reporter*, "Why the obstruction? Hauling sewage isn't rocket science. Our reefs are suffering... don't delay. Septic tank pump out is already common practice on Bonaire."

► **Last weekend the Government health department confirmed additional cases of AH1N1 "swine flu" in the Antilles.** At press time the Antilles have registered 17 confirmed AH1N1-cases: **one on Bonaire**, 10 on Curaçao, zero on Saba, one on St. Eustatius, and eight on St. Maarten. Dr. Esther Bernabela said Bonaire's victim is suspected of having become sick on Bonaire. There are 100 doses of the general anti-virus pill Tamiflu available on the island. An AH1N1 specific anti virus vaccine won't be available for general distribution until the end of this year according to drug makers.

► **Also last weekend heavy haulers transported the large MAN biodiesel generators** to the new power plant near BOPEC from the downtown wharf, past the Ministry offices, through Playa and Hato, con-

Topics relating to the upcoming link of the BES Islands with The Netherlands

► **Commissioner Marugia Janga** (photo right), in charge of the structural changes in government that are evolving towards a direct tie between Bonaire and Holland, is unhappy with late delivery of documents relating to proposed changes. For example, Bonaire government approval was requested for changes to the labor agreements for the schools when Holland takes over, but there was no time to allow a review by the teachers' union. She wants the procedure to be corrected.



BVO photo

► **Kingdom Relations State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten authorized the transfer of more than NAf 12 million to the island of Bonaire for payment of outstanding debts.** This is mentioned in her letter of June 16th to the Board of Governors regarding the island's debt reconstruction. The creditors are the FZOG fund (Medical Expenses, Government Retirement Fund) and SVB for unpaid premiums, the Water and Electricity Company Bonaire (WEB) and the Mariadal Foundation (San Francisco Hospital).

There is still a large outstanding amount with the Government Workers Health Plan (BZV) for unpaid health insurance premiums because the insurer has not confirmed the outstanding amount yet to the State Secretary. As soon as BZV confirms this, an additional amount of more than NAf 5 million will be transferred. In total, Bonaire will receive NAf 17.638.983 for the debt reconstruction.

► **In spite of the promise to pay off the debts of Bonaire, it appears that the Netherlands will not finance everything.** The reason is that some of the debts lack the legal basis to pay them. With some of the debts which Bonaire acquired during the past years it is not clear whether they "actually exist."

► **Independent Island Council member Anthony Nicolaas feels he's been cheated.** After all, the Netherlands had promised to take over all debts which Bonaire had incurred during the past years. It concerns debts with local entrepreneurs and with semi-state-controlled institutes such as the APNA pension fund, the Lands Ontvanger, and the Bonaire Holding Company, but the island also has outstanding debts with Bonaire Road Construction Company and Koop Tjuchem.

No funds will be made available for other unspecified debts which the island reported for debt payment by the Netherlands if it cannot be proven that these debts still exist.

Bijleveld advises Bonaire to look for a debt reconstruction solution in cooperation with the College financial supervision (Cft). The State Secretary could still arrange for payment in the future, only "when further developments turn up" with regard to these debts.

According to Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé, there is no question of distrust or deceit.

► **Before this coming December The Netherlands is set to take over approximately half of the tasks of the Netherlands Antilles on behalf of Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba that were previously performed by the Antilles Central Government in Curaçao.** This information is based on Political Process Progress Report, which the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations forwarded to the Dutch Second Chamber for action.

→→→ More on BES Islands transition to The Netherlands on page 8 →→→



Johannetta Gordijn photo

tinuing along the Tourist Road to the new power plant under construction past Karpata.

Bonaire's roads, already potholed by heavy dump and concrete ready-mix trucks travelling to the plant and wind generator sites, took another beating.

► **The BON-MIA-BON non-stop flight has returned thanks to Insel Air.** The fare is about \$479, but could be more or less depending on time and class. **See details on page 18.**

► **Delta Airlines changed their schedule to Bonaire** which caused consternation among Americans planning their Bonaire trips. Eventually the Delta website was updated on Saturday, July 11th which cleared things up.

Instead of the round trip from Atlanta departing Friday eve-

ning, returning from Bonaire on Saturday, Delta will instead operate a round-trip flight on Sunday, with the same time schedule. The Friday night flight has been canceled. Effective Saturday, July 11, the Sunday round-trip was added to the schedule.

DL 663 9:40-2:55, flight time, 4 hours, 15 minutes. Return: DL 662 3:45-6:55, flight time, 4 hours, 10 minutes. Fare is \$1300. Add \$957 for business class.

Additionally, the resumption of the seasonal JFK-BON flight is now scheduled for December 19. Delta also plans

to upgrade to a big 767 aircraft on the Saturday ATL-BON flights between November 7 and 21, 2009. Those passengers holding reservations on Delta from Atlanta are encouraged to contact Delta to re-book new flights with the revised schedule. (Source: TCB-NY)

► **Passengers from US visa waiver countries** (Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Den-

Continued on page 3.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
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Children travelling to the US should possess their own passports. This information was issued by the Dutch military police, *Marechaussee*.

► Following in the BES' islands footsteps? **The introduction of the American dollar as legal currency on Curaçao and St. Martin seems more profitable than maintaining the Antillean guilder,** Central Bank President Emsley Tromp stated. The banks considered his proposal worth contemplating, even though his statement surprised a few of them.

According to Tromp, the introduction of the dollar is not an immense step since it's already accepted on Curaçao and St. Martin.

There are also arguments against the introduction of the dollar because the Central Bank will lose its most important source of income, namely revenues

through issuance of bank notes and by investments in foreign currency.

► **MCB head Chicu Capriles also endorses the dollar as a better option than the euro,** as the guilder is already linked to the dollar, and most of the business is done in dollars as well.

► **Central Bank President Emsley Tromp announced that the 2008 economy figures for the Netherlands Antilles increased 2% last year,** which is nearly 50% less than in 2007 when the Gross National Product increased by 3.8%.

► **In the early hours of Monday, July 20, Special Security Services (SSS) was alerted to a break-in at Consales Cash and Carry** by the silent alarm. A security guard

was immediately dispatched and when he noticed a forced entry he called for store management, backup and the police. Following a search a suspect was found inside and arrested. Good work, SSS.

► **The Animal Friends Farm could use your help to feed their 200 animals.** Sylvia asks for donation of bread, fruits and vegetables. You may drop them off in the three big buckets in front of the house selling smoked marlin down the street from the Pauw Gas Station. There is a light blue Toyota often parked there.

► **Have you seen Lucky, the dog?** Turn to the back page. ■ *G./L.D.*

Digicel Teams With Special Olympics



During the July 17th Washington Park celebration of their third anniversary in Bonaire, cellular phone provider Digicel made a significant donation to the island's Special Olympics team. "It is part of our management and vision in all the markets where we operate," explained the head of Digicel Bonaire, Remko van der Veldt, in Papiamentu. He then handed over a NAf 25.000,00 check to the Special Olympics Committee.

Digicel has donated to the Bonaire Special Olympics team for three consecutive years. With this contribution the athletes can train and participate in both local and international events. "We always give back to our community, but I have to admit that Special Olympics have a special place in our hearts," added van der Veldt. ■

G./L.D./ Press release



We wish great success to Bonaire power-walkers Nazario Alberto and Roy Martinus who are participating in the famous Dutch Four Day Walk of Nijmegen. It's Nazario's 8th consecutive year and Roy's 7th in the event. ■ *G./L.D.*



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On the Island Since... 2004 - Bert Foks

“The nose wheel of the airplane seems a bit smaller than my wheelbarrow’s - in fact the whole plane looks like a miniature, but it’s well kept and clean. I don’t see any rust or broken parts and anyway, I don’t know anything about airplanes. But this one is tiny. I love to look at the endless sky above, but that’s when I have my feet on the ground and the endless waters that surround us. Yes, they’re beautiful, but I respect them. I did this once before, somewhere in the Bahamas. We were in a tiny plane heading for a big black cloud filled with thunder and lightning. The pilot said, ‘I’ll go around it,’ and he started whistling and the woman next to me, whom I didn’t know, grabbed my hand and I felt her sweat dripping through my fingers and I heard the tremor in her voice when she said, ‘I’m from London...’

Well, here I am, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Bonaire at its best and not too much wind. So, after Bert cleaned the window, checked the gasoline (super) and everything else, he pushes the plane on the tarmac and we hop on. He tells me where the life vest is - not that I would ever remember in case it comes to that point - he tells me we’re not al-

lowed to smoke (I’m dying for one) and that I can’t chat with the pilot during takeoff or landing.

I feel like we’re on a scooter pretending we’re a plane, but... a miracle happens and we’re up in the air. It wobbles a little bit and then it seems to get the taste of it, and there we go.

We’re a thousand feet high - about three hundred meters - and I can see everything, but everything is different. This island that I love and know so well looks like a mossy long stretched rock surrounded by oceans of water.

It’s a brave little thing, and to see it like this, I love it even more. I forget where I am because this is another dimension, a different time and place. Bert’s eyes are trained. He knows what he’s seeing, I don’t - it’s all new to me. Bert is my guide. He translates what my eyes are seeing but what my brain doesn’t seem to get.

At the donkey sanctuary I see a few donkeys, the land looks very

neat and orderly, like pieces of a puzzle put together. Bert spots the stadium and says, ‘Look, they’re playing!’ But to me the soccer teams look like the ants on my kitchen floor. The tug boats are resting at their pier, the yachts in the marina are made of paper and on we go, along the coastline, up north. I see the house where my daughter and granddaughter live in Hato and my heart shrinks, because here we are, in the middle of the endless sea. How come we people think we own the world, as in a different perspec-



Bert Foks

“It’s been magic, this trip... a yellow sun goes down to sleep in the ocean, the twilight is setting in and strange shadows are falling over the island.”

tive we’re reduced to nothing? We fly over Sabadeco, Bert’s house and all the other houses and the dinky toys that someone put there, the new electric plant that’s coming up by Bopec, and I see the misty horizon and the narrowness of the island. Then Goto Lake, with its white edges of salt, pink dots, green hills - a hazy dream land.

We reach Playa Frans and up and down we go a bit as the wind comes from a different angle, the salt pans and more pink dots, a

fishing boat with a very brave man in it, and cacti, cacti, cacti, like the stubby beard on a man’s face after a rough night on the town.

Washington Park is a restricted area for planes, but as the island is so narrow you can see it all, flying along the coastline. The Park is pure like someone pulled it out from the waters just recently - a handful of hills in the center sloping towards the sea, peaceful and precious.

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since
(Continued from page 4)

The rock formation on the east coast is odd; a long forgotten tsunami must have taken a big bite out of the original natural wall. And then we see the foundations for the 12 windmills which are going to provide us with 30% of our electricity needs. We pass Rincon, embedded in the hills, colorful, beautiful, Caribbean – old and very dear. Fontein is a shiny emerald, and all the colors around it seem faded. Then Washikemba, where the excavation machines of the government ate away layers of rock from the coastline to use in construction. We see the old slave wall of Rooi Lamoenchi and then the deep green mangroves of Lac Bay, following the coastline as we're not allowed to fly over the salt pans. Bert points out where the flamingo sanctuary is – a mystic place known by few.

From the air I see the old basins from the time of slavery, neatly cut in squares, Red Slave, White Slave, magically revealed from the past by the freak of the light. Then, at my request, Bert takes me to the animal shelter and I whisper 'hello' to all our dogs and cats, and as a bonus we fly over my house in Nort di Salina, the most beautiful place of the island - my terrain and that of my neighbors' overgrown with trees... but what's that? What's all that water and those glistening streams that come down from those hills? It isn't the rainy season! A dam, tiny little rivers! That's why I have so many mosquitoes!

It's been magic, this trip. A yellow sun goes down to sleep in the ocean, the twilight is setting in and strange shadows are falling over the island. We make a velvet

landing and any time, whenever, I would do it again, immediately!

Bert says, "It's Edith's fault (his wife), because on August 24th 2006, she gave me a private flight with the BonAero Club. I got hooked and I started taking flying lessons with Roy Celestijn as my instructor. I had to get used to such a small plane (a Cessna-172) and during the first lesson we went straight up in the air. Very scary! Well, maybe not scary, but it was strange: the two of us glued together in such a tiny space, the heat, the sweating and the stress. The first couple of lessons I came out of the plane looking like a rag. Roy's job was to prepare me for my first solo flight and I was fast; I started September 2006 and after 20 lessons, November 28th 2006, I went on my first solo flight. And that's something you never forget... one of the most important moments of my life.

It went like this. I flew three times a week and was doing mostly touch and goes, which is the most important thing, and then one day Roy told me, 'I'm getting out of here, you can do it yourself!' Sweat in my hands – lots of it – and then I did three 'touch and goes' – alone - actually I did four," he laughs. "All nerves! It was a milestone and then it started for real.

I had to work towards my exam. I did the theory part in Aruba, the American training supervised by the FAA. It's not possible anymore. Then I had to work on building up my hours, and when I had 80 hours of flying I went to Florida. I was in Pompano Beach Airport at a flight school



Bert Foks cleans the windshield in preparation

for two weeks doing the final part of the training which ended in a checkup ride with an examiner who checks to see whether you've been taught well.

If you want to become a pilot, you should start when you're young. It's easier to learn things and you don't think so much about everything that can go wrong. I am 61 now and I got my license when I was 60. I am more careful than a younger person. In the beginning I was very insecure, but now I feel confident. I trust my material, my knowledge and experience. The more you fly, the better you get. I've made 550 landings now and I've flown 220 hours. It's not a cheap training. All in all it costs about \$15,000. But you get an American license for a single engine aircraft, which is valid all over the world.

This plane belongs to the BonAero Club. It has four owners and I am one of them.

Shortly after I got my license I found out there was a big interest in sightseeing flights and I also started to promote them. It's unique, everyone sees it with different eyes, but they all love it!"

The price for a local flight is \$250, with a maximum of three passengers. For information and reservations call 786-7720 or visit www.bonaeroclub.com. ■

Story & photos by
Greta Kooistra



							
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"Citizen Science" for the Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish



BBBJ on the screen

Bud Gillan has been compiling sightings, photos, videos, and specimens of the BBJ since 1989.

Bud Gillan's recent CIEE presentation on the "magnificent new species" of Cubozoan (box jellyfish) found primarily in Bonaire's waters emphasized how "everybody, regardless of background, degrees, etc. can be a contributor to real science." A biologist working with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Gillan described the "citizen science" on Bonaire that enabled jellyfish experts to determine that the Bonaire Banded Box Jellyfish (BBBJ) is most likely a new species.

Although five box jellies are found off Bonaire, the BBJ is found almost exclusively here, with occasional appearances off St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Cozumel and Roaatan. Since the 1980s there have been sightings of the BBJ, but it took some time before there were actual photographs, video and specimens to examine. When the first video images of the BBJ were sent in 2001 to Gillan by tourist **Vicki Carr**, he showed them to 10 jellyfish experts "who had no idea what it was." One even theorized that it could be an entirely new

genus. From 2006-2009, there were more sightings, stings, photographs and finally some specimens. The first specimen, a bit raggedy after being collected off a rock at Bachelor's Beach by **Pauline Kayes** and **Siomara Albertus**, was turned over to **Tish Dace** and **Jake Richter** for photographs and preservation. The second, and most intact specimen of seven inches long, was lured into a plastic bag by **Johan van Blerk** at No Name Beach on Klein Bonaire. Both specimens have entered scientific history and become part of the Smithsonian Institute's collection.

In June, "The Year of Science 2009," a website sponsored by a collection of renowned scientific institutions, agencies and organizations, celebrated the "Year of the Ocean" by featuring the BBJ and initiating a "Name the Species" contest. In fact, the contest was advertised in the new Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian with over 500 suggestions submitted for a species name to be added to the genus name of *tamoya*. (To view the submissions and the finalists, go to www.yearofscience2009.org). According to Gillan, both the Smithsonian and the Year of Science were impressed with all the

"citizens" involved in the science of this new discovery.

Authored by Gillan and his colleagues, an article on what is known so far about the BBJ will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Zootaxa*. Some highlights: the BBJ is a strong and fast swimmer (not just a floater); it has sensory organs called *rhopalialia* with a total of six "eyes"; its tentacles are generally "banded" orange and white with some variations in color. Like other box jellies, its *nematocysts* (or stinging cells) shoot out fast (up to 5 million times the force of gravity) and can cause painful, even deadly, stings! And, although Gillan is looking for more specimens, he advises, "Take a Ziploc bag with you snorkeling and diving to collect BBJs, but don't get stung!"

As for the winning species name for the new *tamoya*, that has been put on hold because a "cousin" has just recently been found in the waters off Brazil. Before the BBJ can be declared a distinct species, the DNA of the two creatures must be compared. Stay posted.

Special Note: If you do get stung by a BBJ or any other box jelly, the best advice is to go directly to the hospital in case you have an allergic reaction, which



Johan van Blerk shows off samples of tiny box jellies he collected last year on Bonaire for Gillan's examination.

can trigger breathing problems and heart palpitations. ■ *Story and photos by Pauline E. Kayes*

Pauline Kayes is a professor Emeritus from Champaign, IL and a frequent visitor to Bonaire



Jong Bonaire Searching

All former and current members of Jong Bonaire are invited to visit Larry's Bakery during July to sign the Jong Bonaire



Jong Bonaire photo

Bilha Thomas, (left) with the 2007 Championship Jong Bonaire Ping Pong Team

Registry and receive a free *lemonada*. **Jong Bonaire is trying to find all former members as part of its 10-year celebration and Larry's Bakery will be the central location during *vakansi*.**

Larry's Bakery, on Kaya Cacique, across from the *buursentrum* in Nord Salina, is now owned by Bilha Thomas, former manager of Jong Bonaire and still a part-time member of the Jong Bonaire staff. Bilha is helping to organize the 10-year celebration and wants to find all former members.

"We have copies of a short registration form for members to use at the bakery," says Thomas. "And I would enjoy seeing all our old members again and learning about what they are doing now."

"Former members can also sign up on-line at <http://www.jongbonaire.org>" says Thomas. "click on the button that says '10 ana reunion'." Former members can also stop by Jong Bonaire or contact Thomas via phone at 556-3018 if they do not have internet access.

"We also want to find former members in Curaçao, Holland, Aruba and where ever they are," says Thomas. So former members are asked to pass the information on to friends and family members. "We could have as many as 1,000 teens who have been members over the past 10 years and want to find them if we can."

On 5 August there will also be a big BBQ at Jong Bonaire for all former and current members, to kick off the 10-year celebration. "Our goal is to try to find as many former member of Jong Bonaire as possible and to learn about what they are doing," says Jong Bonaire manager Jona Chirino. "We also want to find out what they think the young people of Bonaire need in the future so we want their ideas and suggestions." "Jong Bonaire will host a conference in October where young people of the island will be able to meet and to discuss what they think Jong Bonaire and the island should be doing for our future generations," says Chirino. ■ *Jane Townsend*

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Johannetta Gordijn photo

Young Windsurfers

WINDSURFING MEETS ITS GOAL

Windsurfing is one of the most professional and popular sports here on Bonaire and it's a great example for other sports organizations on the island. Let's have the same courage as the members of the Bonairean Windsurfing Club have to help sports here in Bonaire for the sake of our children.

The president of the Bonaire Sailing Foundation, Elvis "Piskechi" Martinus, greeted the participants to the Pro Kids Free Style World Championships and Slalom events and welcomed them. Lt. Governor Glenn Thodé displayed his enthusiasm by arriving on a windsurfer board instead of in his limo.

Elvis says:

"About 20 years ago we tried to have slalom competitions here in Bonaire. We are very thankful for this year's participants in the Pro-kids Freestyle and Junior and Youths in the Slalom event. What happened in this beautiful sport of windsurfing doesn't happen in all sports where people of all ages can participate: daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, grandchildren and grandfathers competing for the world title in the same event.

Something very personal to me is that more than 25 years ago we didn't have a lot of people practicing this sport in Bonaire, but the Aqua Speed group stimulated a lot of young Bonaireans to practice this sport. Today, with a lot of effort, the Aqua Speed Bonaire Windsurfing Club together with the Bonaire Sailing Foundation (BSaF) have produced good windsurfers.

We have Patun Saragoza who has participated twice in the Olympics games. And what about Tonky and Tati Frans and Kiri Thodé who are strong candidates for the free style world title? Tati Frans is having a lot of success in professional slalom. And titles have been won by our younger youths like Jurgen Saragoza, Amado Vrieswijk, Jup Smit and Bjorn Saragoza. Even Sarah-Quita Offringa fell in love with windsurfing because of the Bonairean kids. Representing Aruba today she is a professional world champion.

What makes us even more proud today of windsurfing, and what a lot of people don't know, is that the category, 'Pro-kids,' was created here in Bonaire and today is popular

around the world. Combine that with the 'masters' category and it's a guarantee that windsurfing has a bright future.

This week, with youths competing with the masters it is a good opportunity for them to learn from the grown ups. Bonaire, with only 15,000 habitants, has at least three windsurfers in the top 10 of professional freestylers. In slalom we have a world champion in kids less than 13 years old and this year in the competition on our home island of Bonaire, different ages are inspired to win various titles.

Windsurfing has become a national sport here in Bonaire, and it's the only sport that has organized a world championship here on the island. On three occasions the PWA (Professional Windsurfing Association) organized world championships and the International Funboard Class Association (IFCA) had one last year in freestyle as well as this year's slalom world championships.

The Aqua Speed Windsurfing organization and the BSaF are more than thankful to all the sponsors and also to the volunteers. Without them it would be impossible to organize this magnificent event. And a special thanks to all the visiting participants. We know it's not easy to get to Bonaire with all their equipment. But in spite of all this they are here and we hope they will enjoy themselves in the sea, with the wonderful breeze that Bonaire has to offer and its nice nature.

Our local athletes have been training for a long time and almost every day. Bonaire is very proud today of its athletes. And additionally, this year in this event we launched a new style of competition which was created by Bonairean Cesar Finies. The style of this competition is called 'flowstyle.' What makes this style more special is that the competition can be done with wind or without wind.

Once more, welcome and enjoy this tropical paradise Bonaire." ■
Stomara E. Albertus

Send your comments to *The Bonaire Reporter*, P.O. Box 407, Bonaire, or email reporter@bonairenews.com.



Customized Kitchens - Right Here On Bonaire

No need to travel to Curaçao, Holland or the US to find the perfect custom kitchen for your home or condo. Brugman Kitchens, a German company with more than 35 years of experience in the kitchen cabinet business, is known as the best made-to-order kitchen company in the world, and it's opened its newest shop right here on Bonaire with a familiar face on the island, Frank Schrijver as Manager.

Brugman has more than 30 stores in Holland, Curaçao and now in Bonaire. As we go to press there are two complete kitchens for sale at very low prices. This is to make room for the new sample kitchens that are being built for the showroom. One has already been sold.

The cabinetry comes in a number of sizes so you can maximize your space efficiently and beautifully. Sit down with Frank at the computer and give your room's dimensions, then you'll see a virtual 3-D photo of the kitchen. You are your own designer and what could be easier? You'll get a free quotation. The company employs experienced installers and gives a five-year guarantee.

Take a look at their shop, Brugman Keukens & Badkamers, at the hotel row traffic circle at the Bonaire District Plaza. Telephone 717-6640 or email f.schrijver@brugman.nl ■ L.D.



Manager Frank Schrijver in front of one of the showroom kitchens on sale

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Transition Updates

Transition Continued from page 2

► **During the negotiations with the BES islands on the future political structure, too little attention was given to environmental protection,** according to the Dutch Council for the National Territory (RLG). The Council, which advises the Government and the Chambers on nature policy, wrote that, as soon as the BES islands become public bodies of The Netherlands, The Netherlands would also be responsible for the nature on the islands.

When the BES islands are added The Netherlands... "biodiversity will increase from about 40,000 up to about 50,000 species. Among those, there are 200 planet-unique species, and more than 100 are registered as endangered species on the CITES list (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). **Caribbean coral reefs (Bonaire)** and cloud forests (Saba) will be added to dunes, heather and arable land, as important sceneries of the Netherlands," the RLG wrote.

► **Currently, there is a substantial local and central government responsibility for nature on the BES islands.** With the transition of the islands in 2010 to The Netherlands, the support of the local government will stop. Consequently **the unspoiled environment, Bonaire's prime asset for tourism, will be at risk unless The Netherlands steps in.** The responsibility for arranging this protection lies with the Dutch Minister of LNV, Gerda Verburg, and the State Secretary of BZK, State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten. Around September 1st the LNV will be dispatching a project attaché to investigate the situation.

Bijleveld-Schouten feels that this is important, "as it emphasizes that we will obtain very exceptional natural territories. The preservation of the nature is very important, also for the local economies which for the most part are dependent on tourism."

► **For the time being, State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten of Kingdom Relations (CDA) will not concern herself about the plans to hold a referendum on the political future on Bonaire. However, she does warn that the stage of negotiating has expired and that it would not be evidence of good governance to recant on the agreements.** During Bi-

jleveld-Schouten's visit in June, political leader Jopie Abraham confirmed that there was an intention to hold a referendum. **The delegation from Bonaire also stated "that in general they were positive about the process and that they did not have the intention to restrain,"** said the State Secretary in her answer to questions of Lower Chamber member Cynthia Ortega-Martijn. However, the new Bonaire Executive Council wishes to take the time to study all agreements and plans between The Netherlands and Bonaire before it takes a stand.

► **The Second Chamber wants the Dutch Government to say "no" to new constitutional negotiations with Bonaire** if its people were to vote for another status, member of Parliament (MP) Bas Jan van Bochove of the Christian Democratic Party (CDA) said to State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten during a meeting of Parliament's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs.

MP Johan Remkes of the liberal democratic VVD party also warned the State Secretary not to enter into renegotiations with Bonaire.

Bijleveld-Schouten said Bonaire was free to organize a referendum. She did not comment on the possibility of new negotiations.

► **The Lt. Governors, Deputies/Commissioners and Island Council members of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eusta-**

tius will retain their income when the islands soon tighten bonds with the Netherlands.

Their legal positions will remain similar to that of the current situation for as far as possible. Minister Guusje ter Horst of Internal Affairs and Kingdom Relations announced this in a letter to the Lower Chamber. There will be no transfer to the Dutch system for the officials. According to her, this would not be logical due to the tax differences, the cost of living, the exchange rates and the level of provisions.

Nevertheless, she had a comparison* drawn up. Except for Bonaire, the salaries and reimbursements of expenses of the Lt. Governors on average are comparable with those of Mayors of Dutch municipalities with a comparable population. Members of the Island Council will also earn approximately the same as municipality councilmembers in The Netherlands. Only the Deputies get less. The Deputies of Bonaire will receive approximately 2,000 euros less per month than their Dutch colleagues. Moreover, for all Deputies, two of the reimbursements of expenses will be cancelled as they will become redundant after the transition. The Lt. Governor of Bonaire earns less than a mayor of a Dutch municipality with a similar population size.

Also employees of the prison system, the police, coastguard, customs and the judiciary will not qualify for Dutch terms of employment, according to Ter Horst, and an adjustment of the current agreements is not

planned.



State Secretary
Bijleveld-Schouten

*According to a sheet provided by Ter Horst, the Lt. Governors of Saba and St. Eustatius earn a monthly salary of NAf 10.506 plus an allowance of NAf 852. In Bonaire the Lt. Governor earns a salary of NAf 11.501 plus an allowance of NAf 1.085. In the Netherlands, a mayor of a town with a population of 14,000 to 24,000 earns 700 to 2,000 euros more than his "colleague" in Bonaire.

Commissioners in Bonaire and St. Eustatius earn less than aldermen of Dutch municipalities. Saba and St. Eustatius commissioners receive a salary of NAf 8.700, whereas their colleagues on Bonaire earn NAf 9.257. Aldermen of small Dutch towns comparable in size to Saba earn some 500 euros less than the commissioners on Saba. Aldermen of Dutch municipalities with 2,000-4,000 inhabitants earn some 350 euros more than the commissioners on St. Eustatius.

Commissioners also receive an allowance if they are members of the Island Council. On Bonaire, Island Council members receive an allowance of NAf 942, in St. Eustatius NAf 800 and in Saba NAf 418. With the exception of St. Eustatius, these amounts are comparable to the allowances of members of municipal councils in the Netherlands. ■ G.D.

BonQuiz #11



A Coat of Arms is often used to establish an identity be it a country or a family. Bonaire has a coat of arms which often appears on official government correspondence. On June 26, 1986, an island decree was signed, accepting the design.

The crown indicates the island is part of the Dutch kingdom, as permitted under heraldic rules.

The seafarer's wheel represents the Bonaireans' seafaring tradition.

The compass is to guide the course of the island.

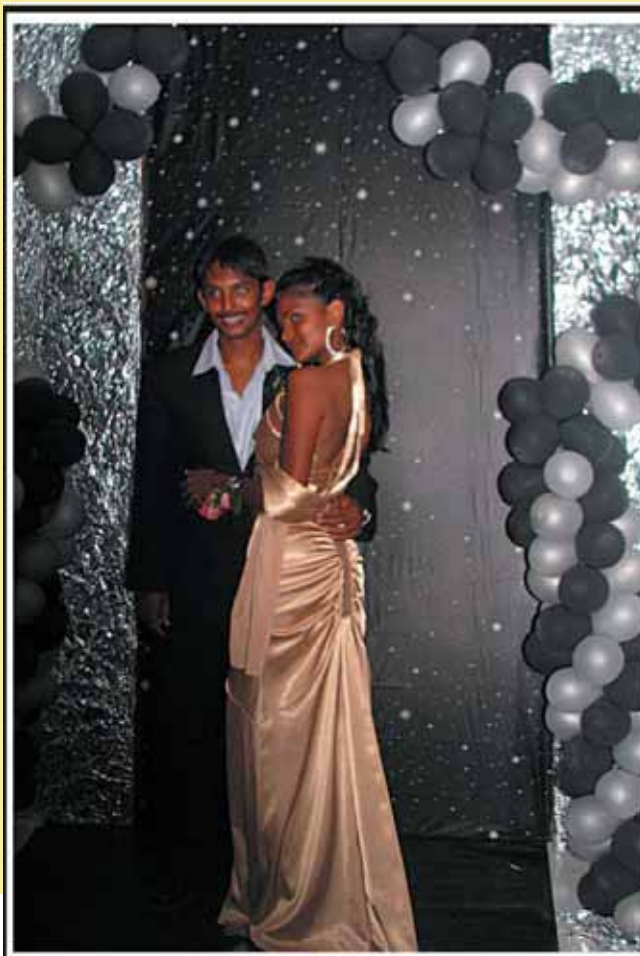
The six-pointed star, besides representing the compass rose, also reflects Bonaire's six traditional neighborhoods.

The color blue connects the island to the skies and sea, both of which are blue.

Q) What two items appear in both the Flag and the Coat of Arms?

Answer on page 16

BonQuiz appears regularly in *The Reporter*. It's prepared by Christie Dovale of Christie Dovale Island Tours. Contact her to arrange a tour, Phone 717-4435 or 795-3456 or email: christiedovale@hotmail.com.



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GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU TO YOUR EVER SUPPORTING MENTOR, SBG MANAGEMENT & STAFF. FROM YOUR LOVING PARENTS VICKY & VISHNU, BROTHERS - NICHOLAS & KEVAL BISSESSAR.

Church On The Rise

The International Bible Church of Bonaire (IBCB) had its groundbreaking ceremony this past Sunday with many of the members and some invited guest attending. Rain threatened the ceremony but held off until Pastor Baran said the final prayer.

The church was known for many years as the only English speaking church on the island and originated with Trans World Radio (TWR) missionaries back when the radio station was built. Since that early beginning, the church has gone through many changes and several pastors and with each change and each pastor, improvement was noted. In the early days, there were over 60 families working with TWR and so the church had, on many Sundays, over 100 people at the service. Changes in TWR resulted in fewer than five families remaining on the island. Most of the programming is now done in other countries so the 60 families are no longer needed here on Bonaire. With that, the membership in the church started declining in 2000 and finally hit a low in 2005. Now with the energy of the congregation, and the Pastoral staff, the people attending are now topping 60 so, as one of the members said, "We are now known as the "Church On the Rise." Many new programs have been instituted, such as "Feed the Poor and Down and Out." New children's programs in English and Dutch are taught. A team of young teachers from

Nashville Tennessee, are flying in on the 18th of July to teach kids who attend Bible School beginning July 20th for two weeks.

Over 100 kids attended last year and an even larger number is expected this year.

IBCB has become the tourists' home church when they come to Bonaire for a vacation. During tourist season there are many families who regularly attend the church services, and as Pastor Baran says, "They are all welcomed and greatly appreciated." Many of the medical students who are fluent in English find a comfort in the service of the church, so one can only imagine the growth potential for new members present on Bonaire.

One of the members stated that the old saying was absolutely true: "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." So they have instituted a pancake breakfast starting July 26th for all those in attendance, starting at 7:30 am. The church says it is free and all are invited to attend. This is scheduled to be a quarterly event until it is proven it is needed no more. Each Sunday before service, and after



Brad Swanson photos

service, the church and visitors are served coffee and cookies. This program was started about a year ago and is going very well especially with the kids. The church is open to all people from all walks of life and especially those who have new ideas and want to see the church stand as The Church on the Rise.

Each Sunday, the church meets at 9am for the morning service, at the local high school, 300 meters south of Flamingo TV, and will do so until their new building is ready which is estimated to be in the fall of this year. ■ Bob Lassiter



Author Bob Lassiter with Pastor Baren

Music School Concert

The Bonaire Music school recital on June 14 was a great success and drew a good turnout to the Plaza Resort. Congratulations to all the performers.



Marco di Gianvito photo

Music School talent and teachers


Royal Decoration to Elvis Tjin-Asjoe



Central Govt. photo




In past years Bonairean Elvis Tjin-Asjoe served as Minister of Economic and Labor Affairs in the Central Government. On February 27 he stepped down to become a member of the Bonaire Executive Council. Last week at the Governor's Palace in Curaçao he received a royal honor and was named an Officer in the Order of Oranje Nassau from Antilles Governor Frits Goodergrag on behalf of the Queen. Present at the ceremony was the Prime Minister of


the Antilles Emily de Jongh-Elhage (also in photo) and Elvis' wife, Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes, who is head of the Bonaire TCB. ■ Press release



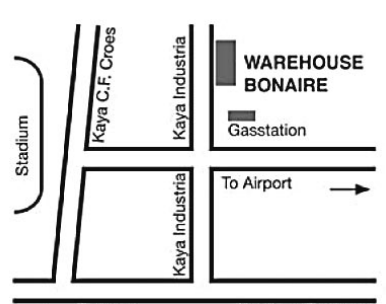
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Wild Windsurfing Week

Last week Bonaire hosted a duo of world-class windsurfing competitions: the first **Bonaire Slalom Worlds** and the fifth **Pro Kids Freestyle**. It was an event that rivaled the annual Bonaire Regatta in scope and organization.

And the winds at Lac Bay were cooperative, blowing strongly every day, except Sunday when it didn't matter too much for the Freestyle event. The week-long series focused both on beach culture and sailing. Competitors were from Hawaii, The Netherlands, Martinique, Turkey, Poland, Italy, Argentina, Denmark, Venezuela, Aruba, Curaçao, Austria, Great Britain, the US and of course Bonaire.

It is the first time that an IFCA (International Funboard Class Association) event was held on Bonaire. Pro Kids entered. National and international windsurfing celebrities participated, and there were competitions amateurs too. Numerous other interesting activities were organized round the competitions. Enjoy the photos (courtesy of the event press office). For complete results and lots of other information go to <http://bonaireslalomworld.com/>. ■ G.D.

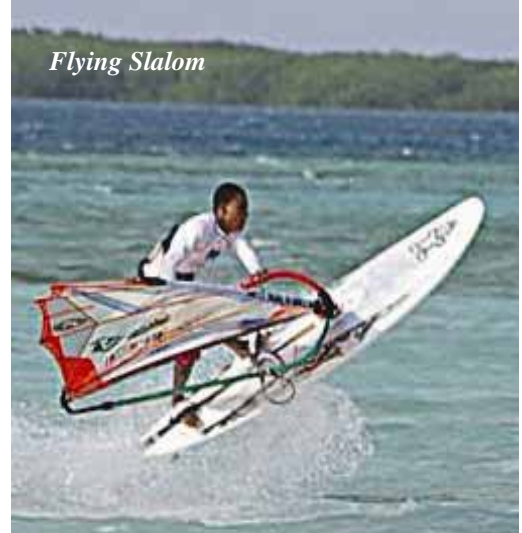


International For Sure

Steve Thuell photo



Beach Culture



Flying Slalom



Freestyle!



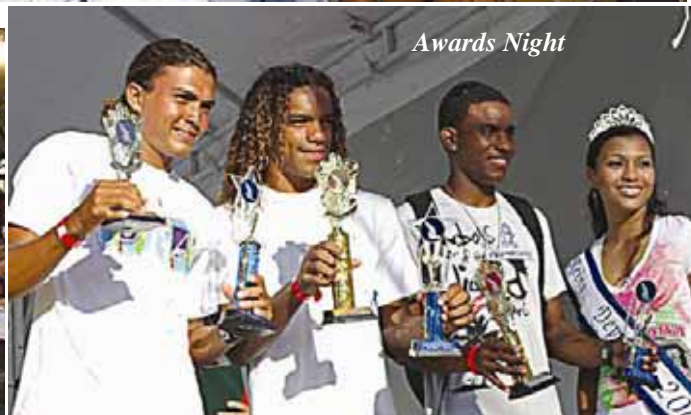
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Lora Chicks Grow-up

This year, the Bonaire Lora project is hosting a diverse and dynamic team of researchers. Recently Gabriela Hadjuk, a recent graduate from Cheltenham Ladies College in England, joined us on the project. Gabi has a fascinating background in keeping and breeding captive birds and brings a great new insight to the project. Sadly, the project's long term assistant, Jon Dunn, will be leaving the island this week to continue with his studies and master's thesis in Imperial College London. Jon has been an enormous help to the project this year, and we will certainly miss him when he leaves.

Jon's work towards his master's thesis has involved observing the growth rate of chicks in certain nests when some native fruit is provided for the parents to feed on. We will eagerly await his findings.

Back in the *mondi*, the Loras are completely oblivious to the comings and going of the team and are happily getting on with feeding their chicks that are finally beginning to look like real Loras. By now, they are developing feathers and those beautiful colours that we get glimpses of when they fly overhead. The chicks that have made it this far have run a serious gauntlet, competing with siblings for food, fighting potential disease and predators. They are no longer completely defenceless, are more alert and are developing into real characters. These are the strongest of all of the chicks that hatched, but they still face **one more threat—poachers.**

The poachers strike when the chicks are about to fledge. That way they don't have to do any of the work involved in raising it such as hand feeding. Poachers wait until the Lora parents have done all of the work in raising their young to an age where they are ready to join the wild population. Then they are snapped up and put in a cage, never to experience the freedom of flight.

The ringing of captive Loras in 2002 and the enforcement of a significant fine for keeping an illegally captured bird has deterred many poachers from this unsustainable activity, but in truth it still happens. Chicks that have been monitored closely by the Lora Watch team in the wild have since appeared in people's houses as pets.

For Bonaire's Lora, life is getting increasingly hard. The constantly changing face of the island with more and more habitat destruction for development means that the Lora's feeding and nesting grounds are under threat. As a result, finding food is difficult, especially in the dry season, and this means that they must venture into the irrigated gardens of Kralendijk and Rincon to find some sustenance. This is why people are notic-



Marlene Robinson photo

Lora measuring and weighing



Sam Williams photo

ing more Loras in town in the past few weeks, and as a result an increasing amount are turning into road-kill!

A nesting Lora will very rarely fledge all of its chicks, as many will fail to survive the first three weeks. With an already high mortality rate amongst chicks, the Lora doesn't need any more threats and struggles contributed by humans to produce young that will make it into the wild.

We know that a Lora in captivity can live to at least 30 years of age, but nobody knows long they live in the wild. With a healthier diet, better quality of life and good social interaction, maybe they can live even longer.?

Who knows what Bonaire will be like in 30 years time for the chicks that will make it into the wild this year?■

Rhian Evans

Ms Evans is a Biologist from University of Birmingham UK. She is in her second year of studying the Loras on Bonaire.



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Bubbles from the Biologist

Did You Know...

That planktonic larvae could beat humans in a swimming race?

Many fish species have a **bipartite life cycle**. This means that they live the first part of their lives as plankton and the second part as fish on the reef. Plankton are organisms (both plants and animals) that float freely with the currents in the open ocean. Plankton are the base of the marine food web. The plant plankton called

phytoplankton can **photosynthesize**. They use the sun's energy and carbon dioxide to make sugars and oxygen. They have many strategies for staying afloat in the water such as small bodies or oil droplets in their body. Planktonic organisms also have many ways of moving around in the currents. A study by Leis and Carson-Ewart (1997) showed that one planktonic larvae can swim the equivalent of 13 of its body lengths in 1 second. This is the equivalent of a human swimming 100 meters in 3.6 seconds. The Olympic record, held by Pieter Van Den Hoogenband of the Netherlands for the 100 meters freestyle, is

47.84 seconds, made in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. So in a relative race between a planktonic larvae and a human, the plankton would win 13 times over! ■

Kelly McNamara

McNamara is a junior Biology major and Theatre minor at Johns Hopkins University who wants to be a doctor, but the ocean has always been her passion.



Photo www.fishlarvae.com/



Pet of the Week

Ponky was found more than four weeks ago. He was tied to a post by a four-foot-long chain, no shade, no water and almost no food. After we fed him for a couple of weeks he became less shy. I decided to take him home because there was somebody who showed interest in offering Ponky a better life. Unfortunately that fell through. Ponky has been with us because I thought him too shy for the Shelter. He turns out to be a very friendly, playful dog who loves the company of other dogs, cats and people. I cannot keep him. He deserves a better life. Please phone Marjolijn: 71-6321 or e-mail bimaro@flamingotv.net—*Marjolijn Eillebrecht*

Want to help control the unwanted animal population on the island? Encourage your friends and neighbors who own cats or dogs to have them sterilized. It's free right now at the Shelter. Call 717-4989. **Contribute to the Shelter's "Sterilization Fund," MCB Account 10616410.** ■ *L.D.*



Ponky M. Eillebrecht photo



Pauline Kayes Photo

Pool Time!

Participants of the Activity Training Center in Rincon celebrate the opening of the newly-accessible pool at Roomer's Hotel. The ATC works with people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities and will be having "pool time" once a month at the Roomer Resort in Belnem.

Body Talk

A LEGAL RECREATIONAL DRUG

When you take a substance out of nature and refine it to maximize its chemical surface area and biological activity, you create a drug outlawed by most governments worldwide. Why? Because it is dangerous to a person's health! Considering the current world population, these drugs are used and abused by a very small percentage of people.

Of course, the War on Drugs is much closer to home, especially if you have teenage children. We have all seen the destruction and heartaches that drug abuse causes individuals and families.

Let's go back to the well known outlawed drugs. We all agree they are derived from a natural substance.

Cocaine - a drug refined from coca leaves

Opium - a drug refined from poppies

Most of us know that these drugs are highly addictive; they will rot your teeth, cause irritability, mood swings, irrational behavior, disrupt normal brain function and cause severe withdrawal symptoms.

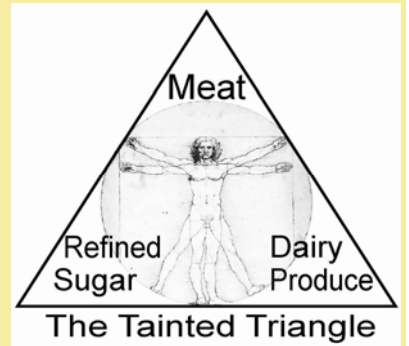
I will now add a third drug – **SUGAR** - a drug refined from sugar cane.

The difference between Cocaine, Opium and Sugar is that the first two are outlawed by governments, whereas sugar is **subsidized** and receives legal immunity.

Have you ever been without that "sugar fix" for a few hours? What do you have for a quick "pick me up?" A soda drink, a chocolate, a cookie or even a cigarette. (Yes, most cigarettes contain sugar in the form of molasses.)

Almost everyone will deny that they or their children are addicted to sugar and will tell you they consume very little table sugar. However, most people are blissfully unaware of all those hidden sugars, cleverly disguised and reasonably healthy sounding like **corn syrup**, or **high fructose corn syrup** or **corn starch**, found in most manufactured food items.

Sugar in its correct form, is as essential to our bodies as fuel is to our vehicles. With the correct "fuel"



our bodies will function at their best and without disease.

Your saliva (alkaline) neutralizes all acidity and washes away leftover bits of food, aiding the digestive process. This process is reversed with the consumption of refined sugar which feeds dangerous bacteria and fungi in the mouth allowing them to proliferate.

Refined sugars together with dairy products cause a lot of mucus production. This rubber like substance called "**mucoïd plaque**" develops in the gastrointestinal tract and is made up of gluten, mucus, foreign protein and other food by-products, blocking the nutritional components of our food from being adequately absorbed into the body. This leads to congestion problems in areas like sinus, throat, bronchi and lungs.

In short, sugar in the daily diet interferes with the immune system's ability to fight off bacteria, leading to long term problems like arthritis, allergies and asthma, hyperactivity in children, peptic ulcers, yeast infections, cholesterol, colds etc.

Have you, because of health or weight problems, moved onto "diet," "sugar-free" or "light" drinks or are you using artificial sweeteners? **Beware!** ■ *Stephanie Bennett*

Next issue: Continuation: Sugar Substitutes.

Author Stephanie Bennett was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where she studied herbs, minerals and nutrition. Before

moving to Bonaire she continued her studies in UK, and now researches health issues that particularly affect people on Bonaire and other Caribbean Islands.



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Private guitar lessons available! To improve your technique, improvisation, repertoire, music theory and sight reading, call **Benji at 786-5073.**

"I'm looking for a **studio or apartment to house-sit or rent from August 1 to October 15.** Please contact Audrey at ajsonka@hotmail.com"

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Porch sale Kaya Mandolin 2 (just off the road to Sorobon, Nikiboko, south), from 8:30- 4pm on the following Saturdays: **August 1, 15, 29** -books, clothes, blinds, plants, nik naks, kitchen ware, car speakers and more.

Put your ad here and get results fast. Commercial ads are inexpensive Non-commercial ads are still free

Picture Yourself With The Reporter In... The Aleutians

Jiri Lausman writes, "I admire the traveling people who do not forget to take a Bonaire Reporter for "Picture Yourself ..." photo. I did not think about it, however, when I was on the very remote Aleutian Islands, I thought that, perhaps, I could make a picture with a replacement. Two islands of the Aleutians, an island chain between Russia and Alaska, were the only US territory occupied by the Japanese during the WWII. To re-conquer the islands, the Americans suffered almost 4,000 casualties during one of the deadliest battles of the Pacific war." ■



WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. **THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES.** Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: info@bonairereporter.com.

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

DATE	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.	COEF
7-24	2:37	1.8FT.	10:51	0.9FT.					101
7-25	3:38	1.6FT.	11:17	1.0FT.	17:42	1.4FT.	21:08	1.3FT.	95
7-26	0:18	1.3FT.	4:40	1.4FT.	11:30	1.1FT.	18:12	1.5FT.	85
7-27	2:24	1.1FT.	6:07	1.3FT.	11:26	1.1FT.	18:47	1.6FT.	73
7-28	3:52	1.0FT.	8:14	1.1FT.	10:33	1.1FT.	19:31	1.8FT.	60
7-29	4:52	0.9FT.	20:08	1.9FT.					49
7-30	5:53	0.9FT.	20:45	2.0FT.					42
7-31	6:35	0.8FT.	21:26	2.0FT.					42
8-01	7:20	0.8FT.	22:01	2.0FT.					47
8-02	7:59	0.8FT.	22:33	2.0FT.					53
8-03	8:29	0.8FT.	23:07	2.0FT.					60
8-04	9:00	0.8FT.	23:44	1.9FT.					67
8-05	0:11	1.9FT.	9:32	0.9FT.					72
8-06	0:43	1.8FT.	9:53	0.9FT.					76
8-07	1:13	1.7FT.	10:08	1.0FT.					79



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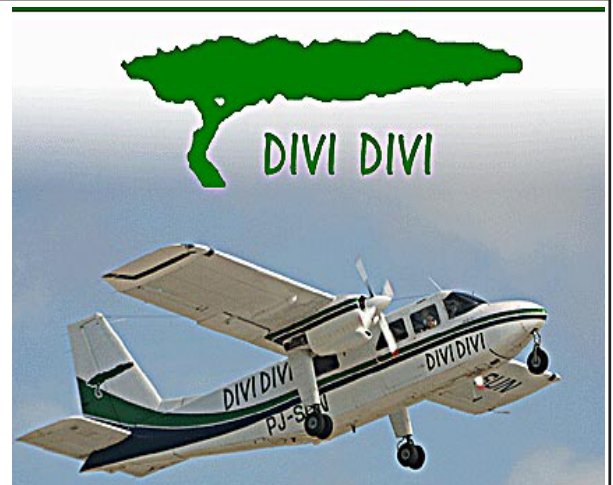
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The Bonaire Reporter Back In Time To 2001 Commemorating 15 Years

JOIN US TO GO BACK IN BONAIRE'S HISTORY TO 2001 – 8 YEARS AGO.

In April 2001 *The Bonaire Reporter* became tabloid size, as it remains today. The paper grew to 16 pages and added new columns including "On the Island Since..." by Greta Koistra, and "Picture Yourself with *The Bonaire Reporter*," favorites which continue, plus "Pat's Puzzle," "Burrfish Chronicles" and "Eeery, Elfish English."

Just Some of the Stories in 2001: Free Diving, NGOs team up for Nature, Photo Adventures at Harbour Village, Ecotourism, Dive Festival, History Lesson for Dealing with Development, Bonaire's Special Spots, Tortuganan Project-local kids learn to snorkel and about marine environment, Bonaire's Bats, New Restaurant News, To Feed or Not to Feed Fish, Young Windsurfers Compete in Florida, Karnaval, Nature Shop Nutrabon, LVV, Chaine des Rotisseurs, Majestic Journey opens, Bonaire Jazz Club events, Clean up Volunteers, Flowering Brasilwood, Bongo's from the Congo, Camp for Kids, Jazz A 1 Fresco, Drug Busters (Nolly and dog Chita at airport), Goat Roundup at Washington Park, Blonk Boatworks, Fishing Tournament, Portrait of an Artist-Nochi Coffie, Franklin Antoin-Medic Air Pilot, Medic Air Ambulance Plane, Earth Day Activities, Medical Emergencies- What Happens? Spa at Harbour Village, BOPEC, Soldachi Tours, Maritime Day, Rincon Market Day, Web Cam Wackiness, Jerry Ligon's Season of Change, Mangazina di Rei, Bonaire's Oldest Diver and Oldest Windsurfer, New Police Commissioner Tiara Haselhof, Flamingo Fast Ferry, Bonaire Sports Pro Miguel Angel Brito-Adrian, Dive Festival 2001, Changing Times in Real Estate, Understanding Land Lease, Stan Waterman, the Man, Peruvian Photo Adventure with Dos Winkel & Team, Artist Yenny Rijna & Adi Figaroa, Bonaire Opens its Heart for Billy Valentijn, Skol di Bario, Florida Park Service Aids Washington Park, Environmental Hero Andre Lendering of Napa, Local Fishing Tournament, East Side Diving, Bonaire Day Festivities, Series on Bonaire's Bats, Booby Paradise, Soldachi Tours, Donkey Dilemma, The Sextant, Prikichi Study, Bonaire's Marathon Man – Delno Tromp, Alcon Liquors & Wines-a Perfect Blend, Cooking for Kids with Lillian Cicilia, Tutti Frutti Folkloric Group, Artist Winfred Dania-Bonaire's Living Treasure, Bon-

aire Runners Win in Curaçao, Cape Cod comes to Bonaire (Ann Phelan), Dutch Holiday Traditions, Universal Flying School of Bonaire-The Sky's the Limit, Drift Diving Bonaire Style, Exploring the Windjammer, ARTEBON Exposition: Ronald Verhoeven & Josephine Ebging, In the Path of Cousteau-Hendrik Wuyts, Liquid Gold of the Caribbean (Aloe Vera), First Woman Diving Instructor in Bonaire-Jenny Marchena, Creating Chefs of Tomorrow, Marine Park Volunteers.....and many, many more.

Highlights week-by-week Jan. 9



-Haitian bike team visits Bonaire
-15 **police officers leave** for better paying jobs, mostly in Holland

-Karpata Project debated. (Project is for 500 vacation houses, 18-hole golf course and sports complex on 600 acres-200 hectares of govt. land)

Jan. 30
-Wastewater project with Paul van der Heijden's plan. By 2004 the first phase, Playa Lechi, to be operational (*We're still waiting*)
-Opening of **De Islander Restaurant** by Tulsie and Davika Bissessar

-Press Association names **Maritza Juan Pedro & Dennis Martinus** as Man and Woman of the Year

Feb. 13
-Bonaire **tourism dipped** in 2000 by 17% as compared with 1999

-In 2000, **71 cruise ships** called at Bonaire carrying 43,540 visitors – an increase of 294% from 1999

-Netherlands Antilles **Park Managers visit** Bonaire and compare notes

Feb. 27
-Bonaire has **6% unemployment**

Mar. 6
-Population declines by 3.5% Leaving were 996 citizens and 159 immigrants. Majority of citizens went to Holland for better economic conditions. Immigrants left because of a diminished demand for their labor.

-About **35% of population is foreign born**
-Effort to establish a **Montessori school** on Bonaire (*failed*)

-Windsurfing Team has swept the Midwinter Competition in Merritt Island, Florida

-Bonaire's **Bat Action Team** becomes a **non-profit founda-**

tion. Its aim is to educate and



make people aware of these important animals as well as sponsoring research to map caves to determine which are sensitive to human intrusion. What they accomplished: spoke to Parliament, CURO, tour guides and STINAPA, arranged for a bat researcher to begin baseline study of population, inventoried 82 caves (29 housing bats), completed a Bat Module to be used in the elementary schools, stopped blasting next to the sensitive Lima cave system for the airport's runway extension, designed and installed an awareness sign at Slagbaai, initiated a tourist awareness program through Bonaire Talk, the local press and *The Reporter* and installed two experimental bat houses at Barcadera.

Mar. 13
-24 members of Bonaire Junior **Windsurfing Team return from Florida** – sweep first three places in their classes including racing and freestyle events.

-Bonaire shore-dive 'Bible,' **"Bonaire Diving Made Easy,"** gets baptized

-Country census says **population of Bonaire is around 11,000** rather than the 14,200 listed on the Census Department (*Bevolking*) rolls.

-ALM will expand transatlantic schedule using Belgian airline Sobolair.



-First ever **Bonaire Jazz Festival**

Apr. 10
- **The Reporter becomes twice as big – tabloid size – and increases printing to 1,500 issues a week.** Cover Shot is Kirk Gosden of Lion's Dive Beach Bar & Restaurant

-Economy on the upswing – visitor arrivals show increase this year, but will the peak of 65,000 visitors in 1996 be approached?

-Corine and Jan-Henk van der Wier at **Sunbelt Realty**

May 1
-**Yacht Club Apartments** grand opening

-Pascal DeMeyer's **Dive Bus** is born

May 8
-Bonaire's **first Internet Marriage: Edward Thielman & Nydia Sergio**

May 22
-**Cornelia "Connie" Fischer & Rob van Lier marry**

-**Air Jamaica** confirms it will fly to Bonaire three times a week beginning July 1

-**American Eagle** begins non-stop service to Bonaire from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

June 6
-**Jong Bonaire** hosts world's first **Internet banquet** fund raiser

-**Government awards historic old slave hospital** to ARTEBON, Bonaire Art Association

June 13
-**Caren Eckrich & Frans Roefs marry**

-**Budget Marine** opens

July 4
-CURO (Council of Underwater Resort Operators) figures: In **2000 Bonaire had 51,000 tourist arrivals. Over 50%, or 25,561, were scuba divers**

July 18
-**Pieter Zweers begins kite boarding** on Lac Bay

Aug. 29
-**Divi Divi Air** begins Bonaire-Curaçao air service with a 7-passenger Cessna

Sept. 19
-Bonaire grieves and remembers **September 11**

Sept. 26

-**First Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire** sponsored by Jong Bonaire

Oct. 3
-**Harbour Village Resort** closes the hotel portion of the operation; **70 to 100 employees to be laid off**

October 17
-**Air ALM** ceased operations when it stopped flights within the Netherlands Antilles. **DCA takes over** the same day. ALM also closed down flight to Amsterdam, however, DCE stepped in immediately

October 24

-Bonaire welcomes the **Dona Luisa I**, a new freight ship for the de Jong family's company, and **Chogogo**, the new fast ferry.

-Beginning this spring **KLM** will fly eight non-stop flights a week to Bonaire

Oct. 31
-**Harbour Village** says they've transferred about **30% of the closed hotel's staff** to other operations and offered other resorts access to interview the laid off employees.

Nov. 14
-**Caribe Casino at Plaza** opens with Manager Alexander Mozir and Martina, the Slovenian Wine Queen

-First Annual **Bonaire Eco-Swim**

-**Dive Site Thieves Nabbed:** ages 14, 15 and 16

Nov. 28
-Bonaire fishermen incensed that **boats from Curaçao** are using mechanized techniques to fish close to the **coast of Bonaire**. No official action has been taken.

-**Klein Bonaire gets legal protection** as Island Council passes ordinance detailing rules for use of the island – designed to preserve the island's delicate balance of flora and fauna and protect the sea turtles' nesting grounds. Development and exploitation are forbidden.

Dec. 5
-**Divi Flamingo Casino** re-opens

-Gala movie opening at **Movie-land** with actor/director Jeroen Krabbe- "The Discovery of Heaven"

Dec. 12
-Construction of **new fueling facility and catering building** at Flamingo International Airport begins

Dec. 19
-**ARTEBON**, Bonaire's Art Foundation, **opens officially** in the old slave hospital.

■ *Compiled by Laura De-Salvo.*

Readers are invited to write in their recollections. and perspective for this "look back."

Send a letter to the editor:

laura@bonairereporter.com



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Dia di Arte #17

The streets were alive on July 5 with this year's 17th annual Dia De Arte event. Music flooded Wilhelmina Park as both visitors and residents wandered through the incredible spread of this year's offerings. Some found themselves dancing away, or banging on a community drum. Others found their spirits high in a tree, but many youngsters were tucked away at artist Janice Huckaby's stand where they had the opportunity to express their very own artist within. Over 40 children participated this year. As a first time attendee of Dia Di Arte I can say with full honesty that every face that I passed had a smile on their lips or a twinkle in their eye. ■ *Alexa Gintoff Reporting for JanArt Gallery*

from 10 in the morning to the late evening, and it was one of the best ever. Sponsored by the Foundation for Bonaire Art and Culture, the event put on by the tireless volunteers, the participating artists, craftsmen, food and drink providers and entertainers made it a day to remember.

Enjoy the photos and meet some of the artists. ■ **L.D.**

Alexa Gintoff, a student at the University Nevada Reno, is spending her summer with Janice Huckaby at the JanArt Gallery in an apprentice program to further her studies in art and photography.



It was a day for families and friends



Two winners at the JanArt booth: Evita and Nelly



Nos Koscha. The lady performers from Rincon



Lula Nicacia and traditional dolls



Carmen Thodé and Yenny Rijna



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Bonaire Reporter- July 24-August 7, 2009

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

HAPPENING SOON

Now—Art Exhibit and Sale of Paintings by Renata Van Der Byl, Plaza Lobby

Until September 30—Bonaire Dive into Summer. See TCB or your hotel for details.

Saturday, July 25—Miss Reef Bikini 2009 Contest, Jibe City, 4 pm

Saturday, August 1—Youth Orchestra of Curaçao (String Orchestra- Two contrabasses, three violoncellos, violas and violins) playing popular classical music- Cacique Hall, Plaza Resort, 19:30 (7:30 pm). Cost: NAf 20 per child, accompanied parents and grandparents admitted free. All others NAf 20/person. Tickets available at the door before the performance.

Saturday, August 1—Big Monthly Rincon Marché, friendliest people on Bonaire selling gifts, crafts, local foods and drink, candles, more. Music and fun atmosphere. 6 am to 2 pm.

Saturday, August 1—Flea Market at Parke Publico, 3 to 7 pm. Everyone welcome to buy and sell. NAf 10 per selling table (NAf 5 goes for Park upkeep). NGOs have a free table. More information call Vicky Bissessar 786-1592.

Saturday, August 1. "Noche Cubano" At Plaza Resort's Caribbean Point- Great Prizes for the best Cuban dress and best dance performance.

Sunday, August 2—Open House at Slagbaai, 10 am until Park closes—music, dancing, food, drinks. Open domino competition.

Tuesday, August 4-6, "Mangrove Forest Ecology, Management and Restoration" training workshop. A \$100 fee is being requested from participants. Registration and donations are being accepted by Carina Kalke (c.kalke@proes.org) or Anouschka van de Ven from CIEE Research Station Bonaire (info@cieebonaire.org). Registration to close after July 22, so call ASAP.

Friday, August 7—Opening of artist Asyla ten Holt's Retrospective Show, "E Mucha ku ta Pinta." Snip Gallery at het Curaçaosch Museum, Curaçao, 7 pm. Show continues until Aug. 21. More details next week.

Saturday, August 8—Mr. Bonaire Contest, sponsored by Bonaire Body Building and Fitness Association, 8-11 pm, SGB high school auditorium, NAf 12,50. Sponsors: Landslottery, Duijn Bonaire, Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire

Sunday, August 9—Presentation of new photo book Document Bonaire by former Reporter Art Editor Wilna Groenenboom at Buddy Dive Pool Bar, 4 pm. More in the next edition

Sunday, August 15—Taste of Bonaire and culture night during "Celebrate Our Planet Week" with Oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle and famous free-diver Karol Meyer.

REGULAR EVENTS

- By appointment – **Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours** \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

- Parke Publico** children's playground open every day into the cooler evening hours.

Saturdays

- Rincon Marshé**—6 am-2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets, snacks, arts, handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks, music. **Big Marché first Saturday of the month**—www.infobonaire.com/rincon.

- Flea Market at Parke Publico every first Saturday of the month, 3 to 7 pm.** Everyone welcome to buy and to sell. NAf10 per selling table.(NAf 5 goes to up-keep the park). NGOs can have a free table. More information and reservations for a spot call **Vicky Bissessar - 786 1592.**

- Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **second Saturday of the month, 7-9 pm.** Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 (NAf17,50) per person. Tel. 560-7539.

- Soldachi Tours**—See the real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information—796-7870.

Mondays

- Soldachi Tours of Rincon**, the heart of Bonaire, 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria, 717-6435-best island tour value

Fridays

- Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin** 7-10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Sunday— Creature Feature— John and Suzie Wall of Buddy's Digital photo center present a multimedia slide presentation about Buddy's House Reef - pool bar **Buddy Dive**, 6:30-7 pm, 717-5080

Monday-Dee Scarr's Touch the Sea Slide Presentation, Capt. Don's Habitat, 8:30 pm. 717-8529

Tuesday—Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*. Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Buddy Dive Resort, 7pm—717-3802.

Tuesday-- Bonaire Land and Ocean presentation by Fish-Eye Photo staff,

7pm on the big screen inside the Sunset Bar and Grill at Den Laman Condominiums.

Wednesday— Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire presents the *Sea Turtles of Bonaire Slide Show*, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn (717-8819) at 7pm.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Kas Krioyo Rincon—Step into Bonaire's past in this venerable old home that has been restored and furnished so it appears the family has just stepped out. Local ladies will tell you the story. Open Monday thru Friday, 9-12, 2-4. Weekends by appointment. Call 717-2445.

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018
Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868
Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th. and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every Wednesday at 7pm. Phone: 786-4651 or 786-7971

Al-Anon meetings - every Monday evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Weekly Bonaire Talker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:15 pm— All levels, NAf2,50, call Joop at 786-6003 to find out the evening's location.

Darts Club plays every other Sunday at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI - First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire, formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other Tuesday, 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call **510-0710.**

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - 'Pirate House', above ZeeZicht Restaurant. All Rotarians welcome. Tel. 717-2066

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Cru-

sita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: Kralendijk, Wilhelminaplein. In Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Sundays, 10 am. **Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian,** in Papiamentu, Sundays, 8:30 am.

Children's club, Saturdays, 5 pm, in Kralendijk
Sunday School, Sundays, 4 pm, in Rincon. Bible Study and Prayer meetings, Thursdays, at 8 pm, Kralendijk.

New Apostolic Church: Centro di Bario Nord Saliña, Sundays, 10 am. Services in Dutch. 700-0379.

International Bible Church of Bonaire, at SGB High School auditorium (Kaya Frater Odulfinus, off Kaya Korona.) Sunday services in English at 9 am; Sunday evening prayer meeting at Pastor's home, 7 pm. Fridays, 6 to 8 pm, Light & Life Club, children 5 to 12 yrs. Tel. 717-8332.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8304.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffí). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at **7:30 pm.** 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held on Sunday mornings from 10am until 11:30am. Bible studies in English are on Monday nights from 7 to 8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20 Sunday School, 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors Welcome: 701-9522 for Information

Send event info to:

The Bonaire Reporter
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel: 790-6518, 786-6125
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Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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BonQuiz Answer



Q) What two items appear in both the Bonaire flag and its Coat of Arms.

Answer: These are the seafarers compass, and the red six pointed star

SHOPPING and DINING GUIDE

AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air. Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Now flying to Aruba.

APPLIANCES /TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances, furniture, TV, computers, cell phones and more. Fast service and in-store financing too.

BANKS

Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

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INTERNET AND CELLULAR SERVICE

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MIO offers by far the clearest, most reliable phone signal on the island PLUS WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET almost everywhere on Bonaire.

DINING

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Patagonia Argentinean Restaurant at the Lighthouse at Harbour Village Marina is the original family-owned and operated steakhouse and grill. Fabulous dining. Now open for lunch.
Reservations 717-7725

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

ScubaVision - Document your Bonaire vacation above and below the water with a custom DVD by Bonaire's top videographer, Hendrik Wuyts

WannaDive - They make diving fun. In town at City Café, at Eden Beach and Windsock Apartments.

FITNESS

Fit For Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

Top Health Bonaire Fitness and Health Center Modern workout rooms and machines, professional trainers and low prices make it easy to lose weight and get fit.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Now in new expanded location off Kaya Industria.

HOME CARE

Bonaire Second Home Care can handle all the needs of second home owners on Bonaire including inspection, management and cleaning,

KITCHENS

For custom kitchens and bedrooms visit **Brugman** on the traffic circle. They carry fine German crafted cabinets and other classy items,

PEST CONTROL

Professional Pest Control. Call Peter to get rid of all those nasty pests like termites, fleas, ticks and ants that want to invade your home. Call now and save your investment in your home.

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center downtown offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services. **Full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Bonaire Sunshine Homes is the realtor with a local touch. Ask them to show you the good value homes they list. Call them if you are thinking of selling your home.

Caribbean Homes, "the Refreshing Realtor," specializing in luxury homes, condos, lots, rentals and property management.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

Best Buddies and Pearls—Stunning fresh water pearl jewelry, fashion, gifts, t shirts. Wonderful service, free gift wrap.

SECURITY

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SUPERMARKETS

The Island Supplier (TIS)-Enjoy shopping the "Caribbean Way" – fresh, open air feeling with reasonably priced produce, frozen meats, canned goods, wide selection of beverages and juices. Good rum selection.

Warehouse Supermarket on Kaya Industria—

Biggest air conditioned market with the, largest selection and lowest prices on the island.

WATER TAXI

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WINES

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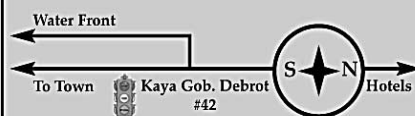
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The helpful Insel Air ground team in Bonaire

Bonaire has a convenient new Saturday non-stop flight between Miami and Bonaire's Flamingo Airport that seems to extend your vacation.

It all starts in Terminal F of the Miami airport where Miami's rapid-fire English and Spanish is replaced by the lilt of Papiamentu. Just hearing the sound of Bonaire's native language makes you feel you are there already, although you've not left American soil. You'll be flying on Insel Air (Insel is a Middle Dutch/German word for island), a privately held airline based in Curaçao, Bonaire's sister island. Although incorporated in 1993, Insel didn't start flying until August, 2006, when "the time was right," said its founder Edward Heerenveen. The start was small, a prop-jet "commuter plane" between Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire, but the airline has grown fast and profitably. It draws on crew talent from the failed Government-owned airlines, ALM and DCA, but isn't burdened by the top-heavy labor force of those operations. Its estimated earnings were \$1 million last year. In January 2007, Insel Air added a MD-83 to its fleet and began flying to the eastern and northern Caribbean islands through Sint Maarten and in June 2008 added another MD-82. Now still another MD-82 lets it offer scheduled flights to 13 destinations, including daily service to Miami from Curaçao. On Saturdays the Miami flight is non-stop to and from Bonaire. We were offered seats on the maiden Bonaire-Miami non-stop on July 4. Before leaving Bonaire there was a brief ceremony in the Flamingo Airport Terminal with tourism and government officials who expressed appreciation to Insel Air for resuming Bonaire-Miami service. There was another ceremony on arrival in Miami where



Top Insel Air shareholder Henry "Boopsie" van der Quast shakes hands with Commissioner Nolly Oleana as Insel Air Chief of National & International Affairs, Edward Heerenveen and Bonaire's Hugo Gerharts applaud.

the director of the airport noted that the two best places for flamingoes to live were Bonaire and Miami. Miami Airport, with flights to 62 different destinations, is the busiest gateway to Latin America. There is a definite pleasant "Southwest Airlines" feel to your flight experience. The cabin crew is relaxed, cheerful and competent, meal and drink service minimal, and coupons are handed out for an on-board drawing for a free ticket on an equivalent flight. It's the fastest way to the US too, only 2½ hours in the air. There's no in-flight entertainment but with the proliferation of I-Pods and small computers passengers often bring their own. The inaugural flight was full with Bonaire residents, press, airline executives and government officials. The 150-seat Insel Air MD-82 aircraft is of the old-school of comfort with leather seats and reasonable legroom. Hundreds were built by McDonnell-Douglas (now Boeing) in the 1980s and 90s. According to *Airline Business* magazine the MD-82 is currently in an economic "sweet spot," balancing aircraft cost with fuel economy. The free checked luggage allowance is generous: 40 Kg (88 lbs) max, in up to two

BONAIRE ON WHEELS

Five and a Half Meters of Cadillac Eldorado

The 51st of a series of Bonaire Reporter articles by J@n Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles that are "on wheels."

Bonaire/Republiek – Somewhere along a hardly paved road in Republiek, is the house of Wieger de Jong and his partner. In front of the house a metallic pink colored V8 mastodon is parked: the impressive Cadillac El Dorado, built way back in 1969, before the oil crisis. Wieger and his girl friend visited the island of Bonaire for several years, then they decided to buy the house in Republiek and move here. For the last year it's been possible to admire the soft floating Cadillac El Dorado moving slowly over the tarmac.



Wieger de Jong - Cadillac Eldorado

Wieger believes he is the third owner of the El Dorado. In 1969 the car was sold in Arizona by an official Cadillac dealer. In the late 90s the car was imported from the States to The Netherlands by a guy from Amsterdam. The papers coming with the Cadillac, said, "Miles as shown are actual miles." In the first 30 years of her life the El Dorado had covered 121,000 original American southern miles. The second owner possessed the Cadillac for only a couple of weeks. Reason? No parking place to find in the city center of the Dutch capital for this vehicle, measuring 5,600 centimeters! Then Wieger de Jong saw the Cadillac with a sign behind the front screen, "For Sale." Wieger bought the car and drove it to the nearest gasoline station. There was hardly any drop of fuel left in the gas station's tank. After a few days Wieger returned to Amsterdam to pay all the money. The former owner gave a \$100 discount on the car. For this amount of money Wieger filled the tank and drove the car to his village: Molenend, north of the city of Leeuwarden in Friesland, The Netherlands. Wieger says, "I have owned some 25 American made cars. Or more... I've driven this

Cadillac for about nine years now. In Europe we used it only during the summer season. We covered some 6,000 kilometers every year. The car is very reliable. Of course I changed the oil and the filters, but it was only after six years that I unscrewed the cap of the radiator for the first time. The El Dorado is fitted with a V8 big bore engine of 472 cubic inches. That is about 7.8 liters. The cast iron engine is fitted with eight pistons, 16 valves and one massive four-barrel carburetor. Under the bonnet there is a little dwarf constantly pouring gasoline into the carburetor. When the engine is idling at some 800 revs it is already producing about 85 horsepower. Idling for 10 minutes takes about a liter of fuel. That's six liters an hour. Remember, this car was produced before the oil crisis! And did you know it takes more energy to produce a car than the energy a vehicle consumes during its whole lifetime? At the gasoline station we always shut off the engine otherwise the tank could never be filled up. The car produces 390 S.A.E. horse power. It weighs 2,390 kilogram and when we are cruising at a speed of some 45 miles we get about four miles out of a liter!" The first Cadillac El Dorado was produced in 1953. The name was proposed for a special

vehicle to mark Cadillac's 50th anniversary. Wieger's El Dorado was designed in 1967 and built in 1969. The car shares the so called "E-body" and the front-wheel drive with the Oldsmobile Tornado. The El Dorado can reach a speed of 60 miles an hour in less than nine seconds, and the top speed is 120 miles an hour. Wieger's vehicle indeed does 120 miles an hour. The engine has sufficient power, but to Wieger's opinion this speed is not safe. In Europe Wieger's job was pile driver or rammer. He specialized in laying and restoring the foundations of old to very old buildings. His hobby was, and is, cars and restoring cars. So once he restored a 1936 Studebaker President, an eight-cylinder, in-line, flat head with side mount spare tires. And he completely rebuilt a Maserati Sebring built in 1964, designed by Vignale. And once he was the owner of a Lotus Omega. And he also brought an Opel Monza to Bonaire, the car his girl friend is driving. And the current project is a four-wheel drive V8 Chevrolet Blazer. This car is under construction. And the next car might be a German made G... But this is still uncertain... ■ Story & photo by J@n Brouwer



(2) pieces. Rather than the usual 50-pound weight limit per bag, Insel air allows your heaviest bag to weigh 70 lbs (32 kg.) without an extra charge; just the thing for shopping trips. Extra weight or extra bags cost \$50. Carry-ons are permitted at no charge provided they meet the stowage requirement. The flight schedule is convenient for connecting flights and

no "red-eye flying" is needed. The plane leaves Bonaire at 10:55 am and is scheduled to arrive in Miami at 2:05 pm. The flight to Bonaire leaves Miami at 3:25 pm, arriving at Bonaire's Flamingo Airport at 6:35 pm, then continues on to Curaçao. The fare is about \$479 (NAf 861) and promotional rates may be available for certain travel dates. Fun Miles (the Antilles loyalty pro-

gram) can be used to defray 25% of the fare price. Booking can be done smoothly on-line at <http://www.fly-inselair.com/> which uses the Sita airline management system. Insel Air's slogan is, in English: "Reaching Higher." Based on our experience, it's doing that and making getting to and from the Dutch Antilles easier, cheaper and pleasant. ■ G./L.D.



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

"The Pussy Cat and the Scorpion: A Strange Tale of a Tail"

Although the night skies are loaded with constellations named after animals not one of them is named after America's favorite household pet, the pussy cat. However, to compensate for this obvious negligence every summer two marvelous cat's eyes glide across summer's skies and in the most improbable of places, on the tail of a scorpion.



On any night in July and August, from after dark to after midnight, if you look overhead toward the south you will see summer's biggest constellation, **Scorpius the Scorpion**. It's one of the few constellations which actually looks like its name. It even has a red star where its heart should be, named **Antares**, which is a humongous 700 times wider than our own million-mile-wide **Sun**. And if you follow the stars down from Scorpius' heart star you will see how his rather nasty tail curves up and then back on itself just like a real Scorpion's tail, with two stars marking its poisonous stinger. Their Arabic names from left to right are **Shaula** and **Lesath**. And these names mean "the sting."

In folk legend, however, they are not only "the sting" but are also the two eyes of an ancient celestial cat which stare out at us every single summer. Now although they don't appear to be all that exceptional to the naked eye, if we look deeper into these cat's eyes with a telescope we can see the secrets they have hidden within them for thousands of years, wonderful secrets because when we compare each star to our Sun they are truly marvelous. Indeed while our Sun is about a million miles wide, Shaula is almost twice as wide. And it is a much hotter star than our yellow Sun and burns a fierce blue-white and is in fact 1,200 times more luminous. It looks dimmer only because it is 280 light years away, which means that we see Shaula not as it exists now this summer but as it existed when its light left it 280 years ago in the early 1700s.

Lesath, the dimmer of the two, is even more incredible and appears dimmer only because it is over 5 times farther away than Shaula, 1,600 light years beyond, which means that we see it not as it exists now but as it existed 1,600 years ago, around 400AD. And it burns an even fiercer blue-white hot than Shaula and is 15,000 times brighter than our Sun. Plus Lesath makes both Shaula and our Sun seem puny by comparison because it is 2 1/2 times the diameter of Shaula and 7 times as wide as our Sun. Some pussy cat, eh folks? So get outside the next few weeks and find these two magical cat's eyes peering through summer nights as they silently glide across the southern sky masquerading as the sting of the Scorpion. ■

Jack Horkheimer

StarPower

By Jenny Lynch

July-2009

ARIES: March 20th - April 20th You'll feel more passionate and ready for fun now that Venus and Mars are in your sign! If single; it will be easy to find somebody new to love! Mercury retrograde in your 3rd house of communication could cause misunderstandings. Think twice before you speak or sign off on important documents!

TAURUS: April 20th - May 21st Money is a biggie this month. With a new Moon and Mercury retrograde in your house of cash you could find new ways to earn more. But finance isn't the only thing on your mind. While ruler Venus hooks up with sexy Mars you may uncover a mystery about a loved one or discover a secret admirer!

GEMINI: May 21st - June 21st A new Moon in your sign has you brimming with new ideas; yet since your ruler Mercury is retrograde it might be better to keep some things to yourself. Venus and Mars in your house of friendship send a flurry of social invitations your way. This is also a time when a friend may introduce you to someone new or even become a new love!

CANCER: June 21st - July 22nd A Scorpio full Moon in your 5th house of creativity and romance makes you more passionate; but it can also bring jealous tendencies to the fore. It's best to avoid love entanglements and focus on career intentions. With Venus and Mars in your house of honors you could develop a fan base for one of your talents. If single, you find romance with a higher up!

LEO: July 22nd - August 23rd While Mercury retrogrades your career sector, you may feel the grass is greener elsewhere - yet this is not a time to be overly optimistic! Jupiter in harsh aspect to your ruler (the Sun) at the time of the full Moon; suggests you think twice about jumping ship or even changing lanes. Romance can be found with someone much different from you!

VIRGO: August 23rd - September 22nd That sudden flash of light you see at the end of the tunnel causes you to feel more hopeful about your future! And a new Moon in your career sector could certainly bring a real opportunity your way. Yet - ruler Mercury retrograde (in practical Taurus) suggests you review your possibilities, take a study course or investigate before you make a new move!

LIBRA: September 23rd - October 23rd Ruler Venus with Mars in your house of partners puts you in a mood to have fun! If

single - you will enjoy ardent others or actively pursue someone new! You may also uncover some secrets while Mercury retrogrades your house of mysteries. It's a good time to study something esoteric or enhance your psychic ability!

SCORPIO: October 23rd - November 22nd A full Moon in your sign could bring relationship tension. Disagreements may arise over shared money or resources while Mercury back pedals into your partnership house. On a more positive note - singles may find a new relationship brewing on the work front, thru everyday activities or while exercising!

SAGITTARIUS: November 22nd - December 21st Venus and Mars in your house of love promises much romantic pleasure! If single, you have a good chance of meeting someone new - when you least expect it! A combination (of the Full Moon at odds with ruler Jupiter and Mercury going retrograde) in your work sector demands some fast action and new solutions to a work related crisis!

CAPRICORN: December 21st - January 20th A new Moon in your house of health marks a perfect time to begin a new regime. You can use this Mercury retrograde best by getting checkups or changing your diet around. With Venus and Mars at the bottom of your chart; your organizational talents can work wonders by making home improvements or your personal life more meaningful!

AQUARIUS: January 20th - February 19th Love planets Venus and Mars in your house travel marks a perfect time for a quick get away. Because you're in a mood to chat things up - you'll enjoy conversing via email or phone calls more than usual. If single; a new Moon in your house of romance is a good time to join an Internet dating site - someone wants to connect with you!

PISCES: February 19th - March 20th Venus and Mars in your money house makes you more confident about your spending and earning power. Because you're in the flow; you might also receive a gift from someone! While Mercury retrogrades in your house of thinking you may change your mind more than once. Allow yourself some time before making important decisions. Singles enjoy hearing from some in their past. It's a good time to catch up with others! ■

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CLEANED BY SHRIMP?

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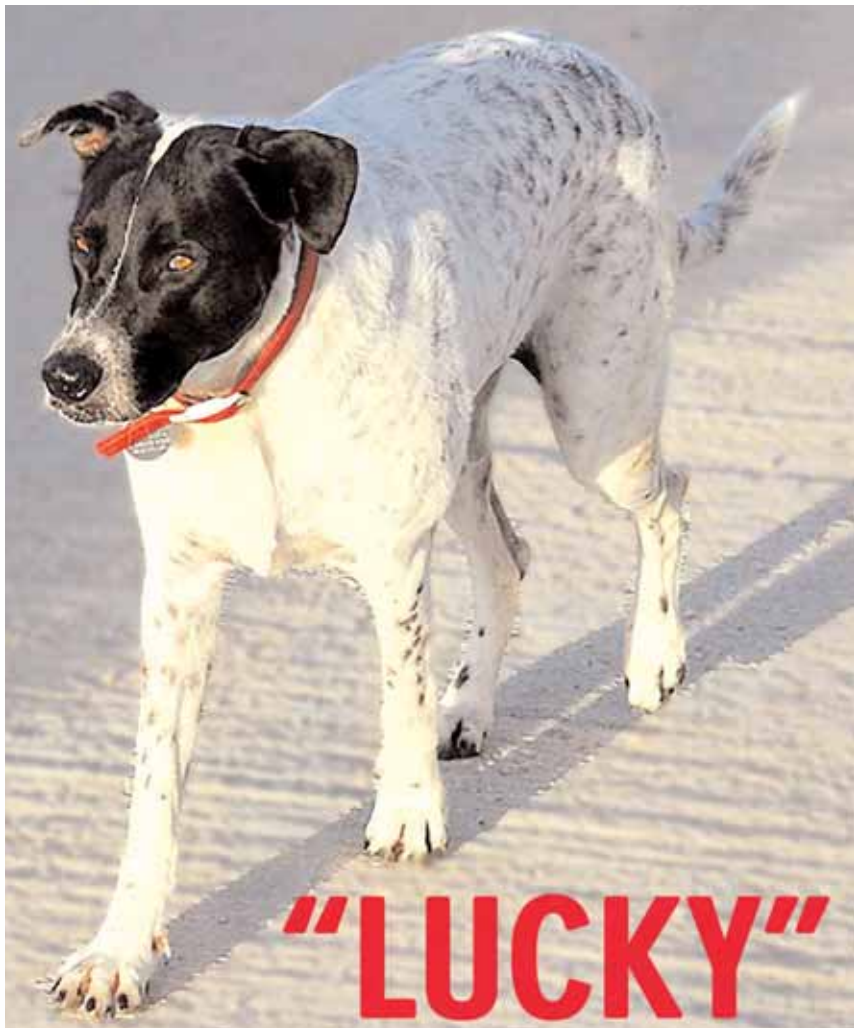
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Reward -- Rekompensa



Reward -- Rekompensa

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He needs medicine twice a day.

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